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"Learning and Exchanging Ideas for Natural Resource Protection"

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Seminar on June 15th

To assist with CRP Contract Considerations, an educational seminar is planned for Thursday, June 15th, at 7 pm in the Iowa Farm Bureau Auditorium located at 5400 University Avenue in West Des Moines. The seminar is being planned by ISU Extension, the Iowa Learning Farm and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. The program consists of an overview of issues regarding CRP Contract expirations followed by breakout discussion groups targeting specific CRP Contract decisions. A packet of CRP related information will be distributed at the seminar.

The public is invited to attend this program and there are no fees or advance registration. The target audience is off-farm landowners and agribusiness professionals interested in CRP issues, specifically regarding contracts that expire in 2008 through 2010. Those contract holders received a letter from their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office in April and have until June 30th, 2006, to make a decision. In order for these contracts to be extended or re-enrolled for the contact length offered, the participant contract holder must complete form FSA-409 at their local FSA Office. In addition, the participant must provide a payment to USDA of \$45 per tract of land representing that CRP Contract, plus \$1 per contract acre. A compliance check by USDA will then follow in the future.

Iowa has over 1 million acres of CRP in General Contracts that will expire between September 2006 and September 2009. Nearly half of those contracts expire in September 2007. Participants with contracts expiring at that time were notified by FSA last winter that they had until April 2006 to accept the opportunity to extend or re-enroll for the contact length offered and subject to a compliance check.

The decision to extend, reenroll or to allow the contract to expire requires action on the part of the landowner, initially this summer. Several CRP demonstration and research activities are taking place across Iowa and will be highlighted at the June 15th seminar.

For questions regarding the seminar, please contact the ISU Polk County Extension Office at (515) 261-4230. If you have questions regarding a specific CRP contract, please contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency Office.